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with a rifle, and had plenty of ammunition, but what would it avail against overwhelming numbers. However, we resolved to fight to the last, rather than fall into the hands of the savages. Chance, more properly speaking, Providence afforded us a way by which we could more readily maintain a successful fight against an enemy so very much our superior in number. About one hundred paces from the spot where we halted, there was a rocky eminence, the approach to which was very difficult, except by a narrow causeway leading to the summit. Hither our guide directed us to make the best of our way, as time was precious; and we could now plainly see the Indians not more than two hundred yards from us. They had perceived the smoke caused by our kindling a fire, but upon its being extinguished they lost sight of the place where we were. If we had remained where we first halted, we would not have been discovered so soon, but we would have to fight on equal ground with an unequal and savage enemy. Accordingly we retreated slowly and cautiously to the eminence, and we had scarcely reached the summit when the terrific war-whoop again struck our ears, for it was now quite manifest that they had perceived us, and that we would have a hard game to play for our lives. They were now but a short distance from us, yelling and whooping like demons. We gave them a volley, which though it checked them for a moment, did not allow sufficient time to reload, for the following instant the first of them was on the causeway: a shot from our faithful Indian stopped his career. On seeing him fall, his companions, again pausing for a moment, gave us time to reload, and give them another volley, which took down all that were on the causeway. This had the effect of checking them, and they retreated in confusion, but, as it afterwards appeared, with the intention of assailing us in another quarter. One of our party giving up all for lost, fainted, and the Indians thinking that he had been killed by their fire, gave a loud and terrific shout. Indeed, to say the best of it, ours was a desperate case, being in the forests, far from aid, and only five of us capable of fighting. We were, indeed, perfectly conscious that it was impossible to escape unless Providence worked a miracle in our favour. The Indians having consulted, their fire ceased, and they divided into two parties; one to attack us on the causeway, and the other to climb up the rock at our backs, and attack us in the rear. Our fate now seemed decided,—and what a fate it was! To be scalped by the merciless savages, or reserved for tortures, the very thoughts of which were enough to make our blood run cold. We had not a moment to decide—but divided our small party—one to repel those attacking us on the causeway, and the other to resist those attempting the assault in our rear. They approached quickly, and, in the face of all opposition, by the effect of numbers, succeeded in disarming and binding each and every one of us; and were just commencing their infernal tortures, when a party of English troops emerged from a neighbouring forest, upon perceiving whom, the savages fled, leaving us thankful to Providence for obtaining so wonderful a deliverance. We were unbound, and treated with the greatest kindness. The soldiers to whom we owed our deliverance had been sent into the wood to apprehend some deserters, and were it not for that circumstance, trifling as it may appear, the consequence would have been fatal to us. We counted sixteen Indians dead, and twenty-four wounded, in and about the causeway. It is needless to say we availed ourselves of the escort to return to our quarters, and had every reason to be thankful to that God who had not deserted us in the most extreme peril, and as it then appeared almost forlorn hope.

W. B. M.

SIMPLE SCIENCE—ZINC.

Zinc, or spelter, as it is generally called by our English artists, is one of the most abundant metals in nature. Its properties are such that it seems to form a link between the brittle and malleable metals. It flattens under the hammer, and, therefore, cannot be readily procured in small pieces, yet it has been stated, that when made very hot it becomes quite brittle, and may be reduced to powder. It is found principally in Derbyshire; although there are beds of ore that produce it in abundance in

China, where it is made into coins, which have generally a square hole in the centre, that they may be strung, and more easily counted. Zinc is the most inflammable metal known, and if beaten into thin leaves will readily take fire and burn. It is procured by distillation from its ores, in the following way: the pounded ore with powdered charcoal is put into large pots, which are placed in a common furnace; these pots have tubes fixed in the bottom, and after the tops of the pots are covered, a strong fire is made under them, so that the metallic zinc being of a volatile nature, runs through the tubes into receivers placed for it. When combined with other metals, it forms some of the most valuable alloys. Three parts of copper and two of zinc, constitute brass; five of copper and one of zinc, forms pinchbeck; and a mixture of tin, copper, and zinc, forms bronze. Brass is a valuable alloy on many accounts, especially the superior brightness of its colour, in its not being so liable to tarnish by exposure to the atmosphere as copper, and in its being more readily melted, and more malleable when cold. Sieves of extreme fineness are woven with brass wire, after the manner of cambric-weaving, which could not possibly be done with copper wire. It has lately been proved that at a temperature of between two hundred and ten and three hundred degrees of Fahrenheit, zinc is really a malleable metal, and that after being annealed and wrought, it continues soft and flexible, and does not return to its original brittleness. This is an important discovery, and in future there will be no difficulty in its being formed into vessels of capacity, and sheathings for the bottoms of ships; it has already been tried with advantage for covering the roofs of houses and making water-pipes.

NICKEL.

Nickel in its pure state is a fine white metal, very malleable, nearly as brilliant as silver, and more attractable by the loadstone than iron; indeed magnetic needles have been made of purified nickel, and have been esteemed more than those of steel, as being less liable to be affected by a damp atmosphere. The most abundant mines of this metal are in Germany, but it has lately been raised in the parish of St. Ewe, Cornwall, where it occurs at a depth of twenty-five fathoms. It is rather a curious circumstance that all the specimens that have been examined of the stones which have been said to fall from the atmosphere, contain iron alloyed with nickel. These stones, which at different periods have been seen to fall on every quarter of the globe, are supposed by some writers to be cast from a volcano in the moon. So lately as 1805, a shower of them fell in Normandy which covered an extent of three quarters of a league long, and half a league broad. Nickel is employed in China in making white copper, which is a beautiful metallic compound, but it has not been used much elsewhere, excepting in the potteries, where the French manufacturers of porcelain procure from it a very delicate grass-green, which, like other metallic colours, bears the intense heat of their ovens without injury. A hyacinthian colour is also given to flint-glass with this metal, and it might be mixed with iron to great advantage, as an alloy of these two metals would not rust like common iron. The Chinese employ it in conjunction with copper, to make children's toys, and the valuable qualities lately discovered in it show that it might be applied to many important uses, particularly for surgical instruments, compass-needles, and other such articles, as it is not at all liable to rust. Should an easy method of working it ever be discovered, we may possibly find this to be better calculated for a variety of purposes than any other metal.

E. B.

THE BULLFINCH.

In some places this bird is called the thick-bill, the nope, and the hoop. It has a wild, whooping note.

The head is black, and large in proportion to the body, the breast of a crimson scarlet, other parts of a slate or darker colour. The beak parrot-like.

This bird is very docile, and has no song of its own, but readily learns, and never forgets whatever it is taught by the whistle or pipe. The hen learns as well as the male, and though hung among other caged birds, they invariably retain their acquired melodies. They are sometimes taught